

**Jue, Tyrone**

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**From:** Bereket, Idil  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2010 9:20 AM  
**To:** Sierra, Natalie  
**Cc:** Jue, Tyrone  
**Subject:** RE: No sewage sludge in SF compost

Most of them are 415 area code, except one North Bay, one Montana (?), and one Iowa (not Charles' hometown ;o)

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Idil Bereket  
Communications / Public Outreach  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
1155 Market St., 11th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: 415-554-0741 / Fax: 415-554-3282 [ibereket@sfgov.org](mailto:ibereket@sfgov.org) [www.sfgov.org](http://www.sfgov.org)  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Sierra, Natalie  
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 7:39 AM  
To: Bereket, Idil  
Cc: Jue, Tyrone  
Subject: RE: No sewage sludge in SF compost

Were these SF residents or just random people from around the country?

-----Original Message-----

From: Bereket, Idil  
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 5:50 PM  
To: Sierra, Natalie  
Cc: Jue, Tyrone  
Subject: FW: No sewage sludge in SF compost

FYI - these new phone calls seem to be related to the OCA petition.

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-----Original Message-----

From: David Miree [<mailto:David.Miree@sfgov.org>]  
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 5:48 PM  
To: Bereket, Idil  
Subject: RE: No sewage sludge in SF compost

Greetings Idil:

Ironically, these inquiries (mostly phone calls) were received in my office actually most recently-like in the last week or so. I figured that there must have been something new on this subject in the press?? We had an influx of calls..I had my interns to monitor and note the incoming calls for a week subsequent. From what I'm told the callers were not particularly supportive and wanted to have their voice in opposition noted.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

David Carrington Miree  
Deputy Director  
Mayor Gavin Newsom  
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (MONS) Room 160  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 554-6537-DIRECT  
(415) 554-7111  
(415) 554-6474-Fax

From: "Bereket, Idil" <IBereket@sfgwater.org>  
To: "Miree, David" <David.Miree@sfgov.org>  
Date: 02/22/2010 05:21 PM  
Subject: RE: No sewage sludge in SF compost

Hi David,

Thank you so much for compiling the list of constituents who contacted your office in regards to the Biosolids Compost issue. Do you know approximately when these inquiries came in to your office? Also, anything in particular that they have raised? Was is the same petition letter that was circulated in September/November '09 related to the Center for Food Safety, or another organization?

Thanks again for your support!

Idil

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ibereket@sfgwater.org  
www.sfgwater.org  
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From: David Miree [mailto:David.Miree@sfgov.org]  
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 1:41 PM  
To: Bereket, Idil; Idil" <, IBereket@sfgwater.org/O=,/@sfgov.org  
Cc: Bereket, Idil  
Subject: Fw: No sewage sludge in SF compost

Greetings Idil:

Here are a few recent addresses of people who have made inquiries (as received in the Mayor's Office) relative to the above subject matter.  
Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Carrington Miree  
Deputy Director  
Mayor Gavin Newsom  
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (MONS) Room 160  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 554-6537-DIRECT  
(415) 554-7111  
(415) 554-6474-Fax  
----- Forwarded by David Miree/MAYOR/SFGOV on 02/22/2010 12:43 PM -----

From: "Bereket, Idil" <IBereket@sewater.org>  
To: "Miree, David" <David.Miree@sfgov.org>  
Date: 12/31/2009 02:40 PM  
Subject: RE: No sewage sludge in SF compost

Hi David,

Thanks for your email and your efforts in trying to get us just the email addresses.

Have you received any more letters since you sent us the PDF?

Moving forward, we were wondering if there is a possibility of inserting the email addresses into the attached Excel sheet every time you receive an email and compile every week and date & send us?

Thanks again for your help, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Wishing you a happy and healthy new year!  
-Idil

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ibereket@sewater.org  
www.sewater.org  
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-----Original Message-----

From: David Miree [mailto:David.Miree@sfgov.org]  
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 1:00 PM  
To: Bereket, Idil  
Cc: Jue, Tyrone  
Subject: RE: No sewage sludge in SF compost

Dear Idil:

Thank you for your recent correspondence and assistance re the above matter. Prior to sending you the original file/list of e-mails received on this matter, I made every effort to create an excel sheet.

Unfortunately I

was not successful in being able to create a more "user friendly" method of extracting only the e-mail addresses which I assume you are seeking in order to forward your responses. I have consulted with my colleagues on this issues and from what I understand outside of manually inputted all the addresses into a spreadsheet, the pdf folder as I forward you is the only alternative? I apologize for any inconvenience this matter may cause.

I

did attach a word.doc below they may "better" lend itself to copying and pasting the e-mail address but the challenge remains because it may require manually reviewing each e-mail and extracting the addresses ( hummm...

there are close to 2,000.) By all accounts any response should come from your camp but I simply do not know how to make this process more user-friendly for you.

I defer to your team as to your capacity to make this process less daunting. I wish I knew of a better method.....

(See attached file: compost)

Sincerely,

David Carrington Miree  
 Deputy Director  
 Mayor Gavin Newsom  
 Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (MONS) Room 160  
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.  
 San Francisco, CA 94102  
 (415) 554-6537-DIRECT  
 (415) 554-7111  
 (415) 554-6474-Fax

From: "Bereket, Idil" <IBereket@sfgwater.org>

To: "Miree, David" <David.Miree@sfgov.org>

Cc: "Jue, Tyrone" <TJue@sfgwater.org>

Date: 12/30/2009 12:10 PM

Subject: RE: No sewage sludge in SF compost

Dear David,

The SFPUC is in the process of drafting a letter/statement in regards to the biosolids compost issue that will be posted online as well as sent out to everyone who submitted a letter to your office and ours.

In preparation, will you be able to send us an Excel sheet (or text file) with all of the email addresses? The PDF format is not enabling us to correctly extract the email addresses, especially considering the volume of records. Have you received any more letters since your last email in November?

In the event you receive letters of the same in the future, please forward them to us, and the SFPUC will send a response from our end with our prepared statement.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thanks for your support and Happy Holidays!  
Idil

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www.sfgov.org  
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-----Original Message-----

From: David Miree [mailto:David.Miree@sfgov.org] On Behalf Of Gavin Newsom  
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 3:45 PM  
To: Jue, Tyrone  
Cc: Bereket, Idil; Winnicker, Tony  
Subject: RE: No sewage sludge in SF compost  
Importance: High

Dear Colleagues:

Due to the voluminous amount of e-mails ( a little under 2,000) I had to create a pdf file opposed to a spread sheet. In looking at a random sampling of the e-mails (which seem to be part of a larger writing campaign) it seems that a high number are from "out of state." I am certainly comfortable with your team (or Feds) responding; especially since you are in the best position to address the "intricacies " and any environmental benefits of the process. Upon your review, please advise me as to your follow-up/response to the attached e-mails so that I may inform the Mayor of your subsequent actions on your part or that on the federal level. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

(See attached file: Gavin Newsom - SF Compost.pdf)

David Carrington Miree  
Deputy Director  
Mayor Gavin Newsom  
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (MONS) Room 160  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 554-6537-DIRECT  
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(415) 554-6474-Fax

"Jue, Tyrone"

<TJue@sewater.org>

To >  
"Newsom, Gavin"  
11/30/2009 05:02 PM <Gavin.Newsom@sfgov.org>,  
"Bereket, Idil" <IBereket@sewater.org>  
cc "Winnicker, Tony"  
<TWinnicker@sewater.org>  
Subject RE: No sewage sludge in SF compost

Hi David,

It would probably be better if the response did not come from the Mayor or Mayor's Office. I'm currently trying to see if our national wastewater organization will consider putting a response letter together. If not, we will consider putting a response from ourselves.

Is it possible to send us the Excel spreadsheet you've compiled?

Thanks,

Ty

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Tyrone Jue  
S.F. Public Utilities Commission  
Communications Division  
1155 Market Street, 11th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Ph: (415) 554-3247 Fax: (415) 554-3282  
Email: tjue@sewater.org

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-----Original Message-----

From: David Miree [mailto:David.Miree@sfgov.org] On Behalf Of Gavin Newsom  
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 12:58 PM  
To: Bereket, Idil  
Cc: Winnicker, Tony; Jue, Tyrone  
Subject: Fw: No sewage sludge in SF compost

Dear Colleagues:

Just a note to inform you that the Mayor's Office has received a little under 2000 complaints or comments related to the aforementioned subject matter. I have been "archiving" the letters which seem to be a part of an overall letter writing campaign. The attached talking points were sent to

one of my staff members a while back as a potential response. Said letters have been coming in large numbers since a recent article appeared in the

Chronicle? on the issue. Is the attached response still valid/current?

Is your recommendation that I simply forward the following response to said authors? Would you like to have me send the file (i.e letters) to your team for review? Is there a new response that is more appropriate?

Please advise.

Respectfully,

David Carrington Miree

Deputy Director

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (MONS) Room 160

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.

San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 554-6537-DIRECT

(415) 554-7111

(415) 554-6474-Fax

San Francisco's biosolids compost, the kind we have been giving out at our events, is safe, tested and great for plants - it is the same as what you would find in a gardening store. Our goal with the program is to increase awareness about biosolids and expand our in-city reuse opportunities.

We

have empirical lab data on the metals and other compounds found in San Francisco's biosolids. As it's the case with many of our other sustainable programs, we go above and beyond what is required by federal and state laws in testing.

Below you will find information broken down in sections to help clarify.

Background: What are Biosolids? What is biosolids compost?

- Biosolids are the treated nutrient-rich solid waste removed from sewage at every wastewater treatment plant. In San Francisco, biosolids treated in an anaerobic environment (in an environment devoid of oxygen) and heated for about 20 days at 95 degrees Fahrenheit in a series of tanks at our treatment plants.

- Biosolids Compost undergoes further aerobic treatment for 3-4 weeks (oxygen-based environment) and kept at temperatures exceeding 131 degrees Fahrenheit at a composting facility in Merced. At the facility the biosolids is mixed in with organic materials like wood chips or paper fiber. This is the process that allows us to designate the biosolids as compost.

- The sustained and serial anaerobic and aerobic treatment substantially reduces many compounds of concern.

Metals Levels / Other compounds of concerns (i.e.: endocrine disrupters, triclosan, etc.)

- Metals - We have very low concentration of metals in our biosolids.

Our

levels are not only far below the current EPA standards, but below the more stringent European Union standards as well! In fact, if you line up our biosolids compost with the same compost you would purchase at your typical gardening store, the metals concentrations would be about the same, in other words, VERY LOW.

#### Other compounds of concerns

- Although we aren't required to, the SFPUC has conducted tests on these compounds because we want to ahead of the curve. We have lab reports showing extremely low levels for all of these compounds in our biosolids.

One of the few countries in the world that even has limits on endocrine disrupters is Denmark. Our levels of endocrine disrupters fall below what is required to meet even their reuse standards.

- The Center for Food Safety is correct that the EPA doesn't require testing, but as I pointed out, it doesn't really apply to San Francisco because we have tested.

#### Why are the metals/other compounds low?

- There are a couple of reasons why:

1) The SFPUC provides drinking water from an enclosed, protected tap water supply. There is no contamination of our water from wastewater dischargers into our water source. We get our great water pretty much straight from snowmelt off the Sierra Nevada to our taps.

2) San Franciscans are very educated and environmentally conscious.

Part

of that is due to the great work of SF Environment and the SFPUC.

People

know they shouldn't be dumping their motor oil down the drain or dumping dangerous chemicals down the toilet. After all, where does all that end up

- straight to our wastewater treatment plants.

This is also part of the reason the SFPUC puts on the Big Blue Bucket event (that took place on Saturday, September 26). We educate people and provide resources for people to do the right thing. At our first event last year, we collected more than 2 tons of old/expired medications for proper disposal. A few months ago SFE started a pilot drug mail-back that has been met with huge success.

The SFPUC also has an aggressive, and award winning water pollution prevention program. In the past 8 years, we've eliminated mercury runoff from dentists' offices and are constantly sampling our major dischargers to make sure they are in compliance.

3) San Francisco is primarily a residential city. There are no major industries in the City that would serve as a large contributor of metals, chemicals and compounds into the wastewater system.

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Idil Bereket

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ibereket@sfgwater.org  
www.sfgwater.org

----- Forwarded by David Miree/MAYOR/SFGOV on 11/30/2009 12:08 PM -----

2008@burge.net

To 11/19/2009 11:46  
PM gavin.newsom@sfgov.org

cc

Subject No sewage sludge in SF compost

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Dear Mayor Newsom and Ed Harrington,

GAVIN NEWSOM  
in his official capacity as Mayor of San Francisco City of San Francisco City Hall, Room 200  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

ED HARRINGTON in his official capacity as, General Manager San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
1155 Market St., 11th floor  
San Francisco CA, 94103

I am strongly opposed to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission using sewage sludge in "compost" and then distributing it to local residents, community gardens and school gardens for the following reasons:

Sewage sludge, also known as biosolids, has been shown by EPA to contain heavy metals, pathogens, pharmaceuticals, flame retardants and endocrine disruptors. In fact, in a 2009 EPA study of sewage sludge from across the nation, nearly all the samples contained 27 metals, 10 different flame retardants, 12 pharmaceuticals, and high levels of known endocrine disruptors.

Furthermore, peer reviewed studies indicate sewage sludge contains other toxic agents with known and unknown consequences to human health and the environment. Numerous additional organic pollutants are present in US sludge samples, such as polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, DDT degradation products, chlordanes, synthetic musk products, triclosan, and tributyltin. Residents are vulnerable to the health impacts of the above toxic agents and children are especially susceptible.

Neither treatment nor composting will render sewage sludge safe for use in agriculture, school gardens, community gardens or backyard gardens. For these and other reasons, please immediately and permanently suspend San Francisco's "Compost Giveaway Events."

Sincerely,  
Lucas Burge  
521 Buena Vista Ave., W.  
San Francisco, CA 94117